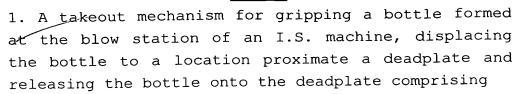
CLAIMS



a tong arm,

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a tong head secured to said tong arm for gripping a bottle,

means including a control

for displacing said tong arm from a first position whereat the bottle is gripped at the blow station to a second position a first selected distance above the deadplate,

for holding said tong arm at said second position for a selected time,

at the end of said selected time, displacing said tong arm downwardly toward the deadplate to a third position, and

when said selected tong head is at 20 said third position, releasing the bottle onto the conveyor.

2. A takeout mechanism for gripping a bottle formed at the blow station of an I.S. machine according to claim 1, wherein said third position is a predeterm-

25 ined spacing above the deadplate.